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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[*The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.*]

DEAR EDITOR: It may be of interest to a great many of our Baltimore nurses to know something of the recent work of Miss Katharine H. Bauzhof.

Miss Bauzhof was one of Baltimore's pioneer nurses, and did active and well-remembered work here for a number of years.

About two years ago she removed to Lancaster, Pa., her old home, where at last, with her usual zeal and effort, she has succeeded in opening and equipping a very model little hospital known as the "Bauzhof Sanatorium." It is principally for surgical cases, but all cases are treated.

In a recent letter she is quite breezy and enthusiastic.

As nurses we should be glad to claim Miss Bauzhof as our sister, and I am sure she has the hearty good wishes of all her old Baltimore friends and patrons.

G. L. A., Nurses' Club, 21 North Carey Street.

15 EAST FAIR STREET, ATLANTA, GA., January 7, 1903.

DEAR EDITOR: I note the paper published by a German Red Cross sister, which appeared in the January number of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The sister says: "In large cities we do find some immoral nursing of men by women. That a nurse should be a member of an association supervised by the State; her uniform should be protected; she should have had an education given her by a conscientious and high-minded superior, and an examination and diploma given her by the State."

I have never viewed this subject from the same stand-point that the pious sister emphasizes so strenuously.

I maintain that no specific uniform, State diploma, association, religious or otherwise, can inspire universal honor, integrity, principle, and chastity.

The young and unsophisticated, launching out with practically no knowledge of human nature, should certainly be impressed in her early hospital training by the importance of forever obliterating from her mind sex distinction, and I do hope superintendents will emphasize again and again to their nurses this one thought, there should be no sex in the category of a nurse's work.

The physician treats both male and female impartially, and who would dare to voice a suspicion!

The nurse's profession is second to none. It is the most honorable and soul-inspiring work any woman can possibly adopt.

In the sick-room she has unlimited opportunity for doing good. When one relieves physical suffering of man, she has a most favorable opportunity for directing that mind to The Great Physician who can heal all diseases and cleanse the heart from every secret sin.

A nurse who is not inspired by motives higher than mere material and carnal instincts is not a suitable individual to be thrust on the unsuspecting minds and hearts of men or women.

The suggestions prescribed by the sister are so remote, that I fear the male population would be virtually extinct and the millennial dawn upon our land before the plan could be feasibly carried into effect; and the "sanguine flower," I dare say, will not look back at her with favor and beauty because a flag of woeful disapproval flaunts over her head if she failed to discern the still, small voice at the door of her heart, bidding her to "choose this day whom you will serve;" and if she refused to nurse the sick, who had no personal choice granted him in being born a man.

If she rely on the Holy Ghost to go before her to make the crooked places straight and the rough places smooth, there may be a few failures from time to time in the nurse's work, but they will arise on the human side, not the Divine.

In the early morning entrust to Christ to keep you faithful, and then as hour succeed to hour expect Him to keep that which you have committed unto Him.

BESSIE BANNISTER,
Graduate of The Mary Thompson Hospital, Chicago, Ill.

DEAR EDITOR: We nurses in North Carolina, like a good many others just now, are struggling with the question of State registration, and the thing that is troubling us most at the present time is the title the nurse is to assume if we are fortunate enough to get our bill through.

We are very anxious to select one that will be generally satisfactory, and I do not see how we can find that out unless you will be good enough to allow us to use THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING as a means of reaching the nurses, as we cannot get anything like a consensus of opinion by writing to a few. Of the various titles that have been suggested none seems to be entirely satisfactory.

Would it be possible to use the degree, M. S. N. (Medical and Surgical Nurse), now granted by a school in Camden, N. J.? Failing that, would L. S. N. (licensed State nurse) be acceptable?

G. N., or graduate nurse, would be suitable a year or two hence, but it seems to me for obvious reasons to be scarcely suitable at the present time. R. G. N. has the same objections,—namely, that for a limited time nurses who are not graduates will be allowed to join.

S. N. and R. S. N. hardly seem to meet all requirements, as many women with a very small amount of training call themselves trained nurses.

R. N. is very well as far as it goes, but, as someone has suggested, it savors somewhat of "registered stock."

M. H. LAWRENCE,
Superintendent Rex Hospital, Raleigh, N. C.

January 8, 1903.

[The New York and Illinois nurses have decided upon the title R. N. What the title *is* is of not so much importance as that *all* of the States should use the same. To use R. N. in New York City and M. S. N. in Jersey City, for instance, would create a condition of confusion twice confounded. As we understand the situation, the untrained nurse will be permitted to do nursing work, but will not be included in the membership of State societies or be allowed to use the title.—ED.]

DEAR EDITOR: The following may be of interest to the nurses throughout the country:

The terms of service of many members of the Army Nurse Corps are drawing to a close. Under previous conditions and up to the present time the opportunity

for admission of new members to the Nurse Corps have been few, but there is a probability that in future appointments will be much more frequent. This state of affairs offers an excellent chance for nurses who may desire to place their names upon the eligible list.

Applicants are required to be graduates of a large general hospital giving at least a two-years' course of training and residence in a hospital. They must be recommended by the present superintendent and also by the one under whom they were trained, and must furnish satisfactory evidence of vigorous health. Graduates of special hospitals and private sanatoria are not eligible for admission to the Army Nurse Corps unless they shall have supplemented their training by a graduate course in some large general hospital.

Applications for the necessary papers should be made "To the Surgeon-General, United States Army, Washington, D. C."

DITA H. KINNEY,
Superintendent, Army Nurse Corps.

[LETTERS to the Editor must be accompanied by the name in full and address of the writer, otherwise such communication cannot be recognized. The name need not appear in the JOURNAL unless so desired.—ED.]

THE TREATMENT OF PEDICULOSIS.—Nurses who have had hospital experience only, with the use of very expensive drugs, such as tincture of larkspur, or of dangerous disinfectants, such as corrosive sublimate, for pediculosis, may be glad to know of the cheap and eminently satisfactory modes of treatment which we use in our work.

Kerosene oil, undiluted, is one of the best parasiticides. A fifteen-minutes' soaking of the hair and head in kerosene will completely destroy all lice, even of the worst variety. Even a much shorter period of soaking will kill everything, but our usual method in teaching the mothers is to have them apply the kerosene for three days in succession. This kills any newly hatched lice which may appear from the nits. It is not certain that the kerosene kills the nits entirely, and for these we get the best results from the use of hot vinegar. The vinegar should be of full strength and made as hot as it can be applied.

It seems to dissolve the gelatinous substance by which the nits are attached to the hair, and after its application they can all be brushed or rubbed off.

We apply the hot vinegar in routine cases the day after the last application of kerosene. If no live lice are in the head, but nits are on the hair, the hot vinegar may be used to loosen them without using kerosene. The hot vinegar has no bad effect upon the hair, and kerosene is good for it.

"DISTRICT NURSE."